

a¹ product location information.--.

Page 20, line 2, after "communication" (first occurrence),
insert --(action 102)--.

In the Claims (bracketed parts deleted and underlined parts added):

1. (Amended) A system for interactive transfer of inventory information in a product storage space, said system comprising:

a directing station, a base station and a portable station;

a first transceiver means in said base station and a second transceiver means in said portable station for wirelessly transmitting signals therebetween, said wireless signal transmission between said first and second transceiver means including DTMF-encoded data signals and DTMF-encoded command signals and spoken command signals;

AG said directing station comprising

database means for storing product-related information and customer-related information, said database means including order fulfillment information and product location information;

directing means for determining an order fulfillment path through said product storage space based upon order fulfillment information and product location information stored in said database means for [said] a product storage space, said order fulfillment path including a sequence of person movement instructions for directing person movements between product storage locations in said product storage space for permitting an efficient assembly of products to fulfill a customer order, said directing means passing said person movement instructions to the first transceiver means for transmission to said second transceiver means of said

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portable station;

a processing means for facilitating transfer of data between said first transceiver means, said database means, and said directing means;

said base station comprising

voice recognition means for identifying spoken command signals received from said portable station and converting said spoken command signals into predetermined computer command codes corresponding to the spoken command signals, wherein said voice recognition means transfers said predetermined computer command codes to said directing station;

voice generation means for converting predetermined computer command codes received from said directing means into corresponding electronic sound signals for producing sounds corresponding to spoken commands, wherein said voice generation means transfers said electronic sound signals to said portable station;

a first translating means for translating DTMF-encoded transfer signals from said portable station into predetermined computer command codes, wherein said first translating means transfers said predetermined computer command codes to said directing station;

a computer command code database accessible by said first translating means and said voice generation means for providing predetermined computer command codes; and

said portable station being adapted for use remotely from said base station, said portable station being movable about a product storage space, said portable station comprising:

scanning means for scanning bar code indicia on a product, said scanning means being adapted to produce digital data

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signals based upon the bar code indicia scanned;
a second translating means for converting digital data signals from said scanning means into DTMF-encoded transfer signals for transmitting to the first translating means of said base station;
a sound receiving means for receiving sounds and converting said sounds into electronic sound signals; and
a sound generating means for generating audible sounds from electronic sound signals.

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9. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein [,] said input means [comprising] comprises a numerical keypad incorporated with said scanning means.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 1 additionally comprising a power source comprising a [rechargeable] rechargeable battery.

12. (Amended) The system of claim 1 additionally comprising a headset wearable on the head of a user, said headset including said [speech] sound receiving means and said [speech] sound generating means of said portable station.

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13. (Amended) A portable [interface device] station for interactive transfer of inventory information with a remotely-located base station having a first transceiver means, said [portable interface device being for inclusion as a part of a] portable station [including] comprising:
a second transceiver means for wirelessly transmitting signals to and receiving signals from the first transceiver means of a base station,
scanning means for scanning bar code indicia on a product and

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producing digital data signals based upon the bar code indicia scanned,
a sound receiving means for receiving sounds and converting said sounds into electronic sound signals, [and]
a sound generating means for generating audible sounds from electronic sound signals, [said] and
a portable interface device comprising:

a first interface means for interfacing to [a] the second transceiver means [of a portable station];
a second interface means for interfacing to [a] the sound receiving means [of a portable station] and [a] the sound generating means [of a portable station];
a third interface means for interfacing to [a] the scanning means [of a portable station]; and

a translating means for converting digital data signals received from [a] the scanning means interfaced to said third interface means, said translating means being adapted to convert said digital data signals into DTMF-encoded transfer signals and transmitting said transfer signals to the first interface means for [transfer] being wirelessly transferred to [a] the first transceiver means of the base station by said second transceiver means, said translating means converting DTMF-encoded transfer signals received by wireless transmission from said first transceiver means to said second transceiver means and passed to said first interface means [from a second transceiver means], said translating means being adapted to convert said DTMF-encoded transfer signals into digital data signals for transfer to said scanning means.

14. (Amended) The portable [interface device] station of

claim 13 additionally comprising a detection means connected to said first interface means for detecting DTMF-encoded signals received by said first interface means from said second transceiver means.

15. (Amended) The portable [interface device] station of claim 14 additionally comprising an interrupting means connected to said first interface means for preventing DTMF-encoded signals from being transferred to [a] said sound generating means connected to said second interface means, said interrupting means being triggered by said detection means upon detection of DTMF-encoded signals.

16. (Amended) A method of merchandise ordering and order fulfillment, said method comprising:
providing an order processing system comprising a central station interfaced to a telephone communication network so as to be accessible to customers by telephone for creation of a merchandise order, said system further comprising a store station linked to said central station for receiving said merchandise order from said central station, said store station including a portable station movable by a user about a product storage space;
[identifying a customer account based upon a customer identification transmitted to the central station by a customer;]
[selecting the merchandise order transfer characteristics for effecting the transfer to the customer of the product items of the merchandise order; and]
assembling a customer order for fulfillment, including the [steps] step of requesting identification of product items to be added to the product order and the quantity of each identified

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product item; and
fulfilling the merchandise order from the product storage space,
including the steps of:
compiling a listing of the product items of one or more
merchandise orders to be assembled in the product storage
space, and
identifying the product locations in the product storage space of
each of the product items on said listing of product items.

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17. (Amended) The method of claim [16] ¹⁷ ~~22~~ wherein the step of determining additionally comprises, if an unfulfilled merchandise order is present on said database, providing a listing of product items of the unfulfilled merchandise order and inquiring whether the unfulfilled merchandise order is to be modified.

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18. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said step of assembling a merchandise order includes the [step] steps of establishing a predetermined limit quantity for each product item, and comparing the requested quantity of a product item in a customer order to [a] the predetermined limit quantity established for said product item and, if the requested quantity exceeds said predetermined limit quantity, requesting confirmation of the requested quantity.

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19. (Amended) The method of claim 16 additionally comprising the step of selecting the merchandise order transfer characteristics for effecting the transfer to the customer of the product items of the merchandise order, wherein said step of selecting the merchandise order transfer characteristics includes choosing between the options of delivery of the product items to the customer and pickup of the product items by the customer, and picking the date and time of the transfer of the merchandise order.

sub D² 2221. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein said fulfilling step includes the steps of requesting from said portable station the identification of the product item picked from said product storage space, scanning a code associated with the product item, and comparing the product item identified to the identity of the product item identity transmitted to said portable station.

2926. (Amended) [The] A method of [claim 16 additionally comprising the step of] merchandise ordering and order fulfillment, said method comprising:

providing an order processing system comprising a central station interfaced to a telephone communication network so as be accessible to customers by telephone for creation of a merchandise order, said system further comprising a store station linked to said central station for receiving said merchandise order from said central station, said store station including a portable station movable by a user about a product storage space;

identifying a customer account based upon a customer identification transmitted to the central station by a customer;

selecting the merchandise order transfer characteristics for effecting the transfer to the customer of the product items of the merchandise order;

assembling a customer order for fulfillment, including the steps of requesting identification of product items to be added to the product order and the quantity of each identified product item; and

fulfilling the merchandise order from [a] said product storage space of a store, including the steps of:

compiling a listing of the product items of one or more merchandise orders to be assembled in [a] said

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product storage space,
identifying the product locations in said product storage
space of each of the product items on said listing of
[merchandise] product items,
determining a merchandise order fulfillment path through
said product storage space, said order fulfillment path
comprising a sequence of person movement
instructions between the product locations of product
items on said listing of [merchandise] product items,
and
transmitting one of said person movement instructions and
a product item identity to said portable station in said
product storage space for permitting a user of said
portable station to locate a product item in said
product storage [station] space.

Please add the following new claims:

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~~26~~²⁶28. (Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of
fulfilling the merchandise order additionally comprises transmitting
one of said person movement instructions and a product item
identity to said portable station in said product storage space for
permitting a user of said portable station to locate a product item in
said product storage space.

~~27~~²⁷29. (Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of
fulfilling the merchandise order additionally comprises determining
a merchandise order fulfillment path through said product storage
space, said order fulfillment path comprising a sequence of person
movement instructions between the product locations of product
items on said listing of merchandise items.

~~28~~²⁸30. (Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of

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fulfilling the merchandise order additionally comprises transmitting one of said person movement instructions and a product item identity to said portable station in said product storage space for permitting a user of said portable station to locate a product item in said product storage space; and determining a merchandise order fulfillment path through said product storage space, said order fulfillment path comprising a sequence of person movement instructions between the product locations of product items on said listing of merchandise items.

21. (Added) A system for interactive transfer of inventory information in a product storage space, said system comprising: a directing station, a base station and a portable station; a first transceiver means in said base station and a second transceiver means in said portable station for wirelessly transmitting signals therebetween;

said directing station comprising:

database means for storing product-related information and customer-related information, said database means including order fulfillment information and product location information;

directing means for determining an order fulfillment path through said product storage space based upon order fulfillment information and product location information stored in said database means for a product storage space, said order fulfillment path including a sequence of person movement instructions for directing person movements between product storage locations in said product storage space for permitting an efficient assembly of products to fulfill a customer order, said directing means passing said person movement instructions to the first transceiver means for

transmission to said second transceiver means of said portable station;

said base station comprising:

voice recognition means for identifying spoken command signals received from said portable station and converting said spoken command signals into predetermined computer command codes corresponding to the spoken command signals;

voice generation means for converting predetermined computer command codes received from said directing means into corresponding electronic sound signals for producing sounds corresponding to spoken commands; and

said portable station being adapted for use remotely from said base station, said portable station being movable about a product storage space, said portable station comprising:

scanning means for scanning bar code indicia on a product, said scanning means being adapted to produce digital data signals based upon the bar code indicia scanned;

a sound receiving means for receiving sounds and converting said sounds into electronic sound signals; and

a sound generating means for generating audible sounds from electronic sound signals.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Official Action.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action states that claims 1 through 12 and 27 of the subject application would be allowable if rewritten